



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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FAIRBANKS MAN WHO USED INTERNET TO LURE MINOR FOR SEX GETS SEVEN-YEAR FEDERAL PRISON TERM

ANCHORAGE, Ala. – A former Fairbanks fast-food restaurant employee has been sentenced to more than seven years in prison and ordered to pay \$11,500 in restitution to his 14-year-old victim after pleading guilty to using the Internet to entice minors to have sexual contact with him.

Christian S. Gomez, 28, appeared in federal court Monday before U.S. District Court Judge James K. Singleton, Jr. to be sentenced on the charges stemming from an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). ICE agents arrested Gomez in March 2005 following his indictment on two counts of enticement of a minor using the Internet.

The Fairbanks man originally came to ICE's attention as part of an undercover investigation during which Gomez, using an instant Internet messaging service, boasted to an ICE agent posing online as a 14-year-old girl about having sex with another teenager in Anchorage.

In continued online chats, Gomez sought to meet the undercover agent in Fairbanks for a sexual encounter. During those discussions, Gomez disclosed information about his other contacts including the girl in Anchorage, Jane Doe. Using an e-mail address for Jane Doe supplied by Gomez, ICE agents located her mother, who was already aware of her daughter's contact (via telephone) with Gomez.

Jane Doe's mother provided agents with telephone numbers her daughter used to contact Gomez – numbers she extracted from her phone bill. In an interview with an officer from the Anchorage Police Department, Jane Doe admitted she met Gomez on the Internet, chatted with him frequently online, and had a sexual encounter with him on one occasion at a local motel when he traveled to Anchorage.

"We will use all the resources at our disposal to identify, investigate and prosecute those individuals who attempt to prey on unsuspecting children," said Kevin Blackmore, resident agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in Alaska.

The investigation is part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov. ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.